

Fifth-Wheel Travel Trailer/Coaches Length Increase

Effective: January 1, 2014

New Policy

Effective January 1, 2014, legislation increases the maximum length limitation for fifth-wheel trailer coaches from 40 to 48 feet. The current 40 foot maximum length limitation continues to apply to all other trailer coaches. The maximum width limitation remains unchanged.

Fifth-wheel travel trailers that do not exceed any of the following lengths may be registered, regardless of the date first sold or operated:

- **All:** 48 feet in length from the foremost point of the trailer to the rear extremity of the trailer.
- **Single-axle:** 38 feet in length from the kingpin to the rearmost axle.
- **Two or more axles:** 40 feet in length from the kingpin to the rearmost axle.

NOTE: A kingpin is the main vertical bolt that locks the fifth-wheel to the semi-tractor or pickup truck.

Procedures

Before January 1, 2014, applications for original registration of travel trailers that exceed 40 feet (480 inches):

- Cannot be processed.
- Fees cannot be collected.

NOTE: These applications may be processed on January 1, 2014 or later; however, penalties will not be waived.

On or after January 1, 2014, if an application is submitted for original registration of a travel trailer that exceeds 40 feet, but does not exceed 48 feet (576 inches), the application must include a Statement of Facts (REG 256) form, which describes the vehicle and lists the length in Section G, or the application will be returned to the customer. Process the application as follows:

<i>If the vehicle is a...</i>	<i>and the application...</i>	<i>then...</i>
single-axle fifth-wheel travel trailer that does not exceed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 48 feet in overall length, • 38 feet from the kingpin to the rearmost axle, 	does contain REG 256 form stating so,	clear the application if all other requirements are met.
two or more axle fifth-wheel travel trailer that does not exceed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 48 feet in overall length, • 40 feet from the kingpin to the rearmost axle, 		

Procedures, *continued*

<i>If the vehicle is a...</i>	<i>and the application...</i>	<i>then...</i>
a fifth-wheel travel trailer,	does not contain a REG 256 form, which describes the vehicle and lists the length,	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Return the application to the applicant.• Do not start the application, or collect fees until the required REG 256 is submitted.
Not a fifth-wheel travel trailer,	does or does not contain a REG 256 form,	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Return the application to the applicant.• Do not start the application.• Do not collect fees.• The vehicle cannot be registered in California.• Refer to the VR 2013-03 Fifth-Wheel and Trailer Coaches memo.
NOTE: These procedures do not apply to trailer coaches already registered in California. Process non-original transactions for vehicles with body type model (BTM) coach (CCH) as usual.		

Background

Fifth-wheel travel trailers exceeding 16 feet in length are registered as trailer coaches and assigned BTM CCH. Recent legislation increased the maximum length limitation for fifth-wheel travel trailers from 40 to 48 feet and stipulates kingpin to rearmost axle length limitations.

Distribution

Notification that this memo is available online, at www.dmv.ca.gov under Publications was made via California DMV's Automated E-mail Alert System in December 2013.

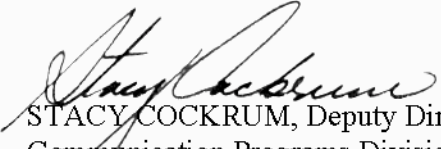
References

California Vehicle Code §35400.6

VIN 2013-03 Fifth-Wheel and Trailer Coaches

Contact

Call the DMV Customer Communications Section, at (916) 657-6560 for further clarification of this memo. Upon request, this document can be produced in Braille or large print.



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